

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ROBERT WESLEY HANSEN,

Appellant,

v.

SALLIE MAE, INC.; EDUCATIONAL
CREDIT MANAGEMENT
CORPORATION; UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; and
ITT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, INC.,
d/b/a ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE,

Appellees.

CASE NO. 2:14-cv-00116-MJP

BAP. No. WW-14-1023

Internal Appeal No. 14-S001

Adv. No. 12-01394

ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND
DENYING IN PART MOTION TO
SEAL

This matter comes before the Court on Appellant Robert Hansen's motion to seal. (Dkt. No. 14.) Having reviewed the motion, and all related papers, the Court GRANTS the motion as to the declaration of Lynne Munoz (Dkt. No. 17), but DENIES as to the Bankruptcy Court transcripts (Dkt. Nos. 15-16.).

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Appellant requests the Court to seal two transcripts from the Bankruptcy Court, as well as a medical declaration from Lynne Munoz, a nurse practitioner. To succeed in sealing these documents, Plaintiff must show there is a “compelling reason.” Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180 (9th Cir. 2006) (holding “those who seek to maintain the secrecy of documents attached to dispositive motions must meet the high threshold of showing that ‘compelling reasons’ support secrecy.”) Because Declaration of Munoz describes Mr. Hansen’s medical conditions, the Court finds a compelling reason to seal it. Karpenski v. Am. Gen. Life Companies, LLC, 2:12-CV-01569RSM, 2013 WL 5588312 (W.D. Wash. 2013) (The need to protect medical privacy qualifies in general as a ‘compelling reason.’”) Likewise, two court transcripts also contain references to his medical condition. The Court however DENIES the motion because these references are minimal and less restrictive means are sufficient to protect Mr. Hansen’s privacy. (Dkt. No. 15-16.) The Court directs Appellant to file redacted copies of both transcripts within ten (10) days of this Order.

The Court GRANTS the motion in part and DENIES the motion in part. The Clerk is directed to preserve the declaration under seal and transcripts under seal. (Dkt. Nos. 15-17). Appellant must file redacted versions of the transcripts within ten (10) days of this Order.

The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all counsel.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2014.



Marsha J. Pechman
Chief United States District Judge